

effects of oxidation from common causes, is a sufficient reason for the presence of this mineral, unaccompanied by others\*.

With regard, however, to the Náhun and Rámungá gold, we are perfectly decided on one point, viz. that the rivers bearing the dust have no connection whatever *now* with the great Himaláyan chain, and therefore, that if the mineral exists in abundance at any one point, it will be found in the hills from which these rivers derive their sources; and it is to be hoped, that we may even look forward to the ultimate discovery of gold in comparatively as great abundance as the present fossils, the existence of which, six months ago, would have been as much doubted as the possibility of finding gold now may be.

*Northern Duáb, April 10th, 1835.*

VI.—*Notice of the Nipálese Spirit Still. By A. CAMPBELL, Esq. M. D. attached to the Nèpal Residency.*

The accompanying (Pl. XVII.) is a rough sketch of the still in universal use throughout the valley of Nèpál Proper, as well as its neighbouring hilly country; and so far as I can learn in the portions of eastern Thibet, usually visited by Nipálese traders, on the beaten commercial routes, by the Kerún and Kuti passes of the Himálaya, to Digarchi and Lhássa. I believe it to be as different from that commonly used in the plains of India, as it assuredly is from any with which I am acquainted as existing in European countries, and as its use is confined here chiefly to the Newár population, it needs no apology for intrusion on the public attention.

In India, (so far as my recollection is faithful,) Nipálese men, manners, and things are regarded, as pertaining exclusively to the ruling class of the community, yecept Gúrkhás; this arises partly from want of better information on, or curiosity regarding, Nèpál affairs; partly from the common habit of identifying the whole people of a country, with the few, who may for a time direct its destinies, but chiefly from Nèpál being best known to us, as the theatre of a two-years' war between one power and the afore-mentioned tribe.

The Newárs, as is well known, were down to the Gúrkhá conquest the rulers of this valley, and were, as far as at present ascertained, its

\* In the specimens from the alluvial soil of the Brazils, the particles of gold are much larger than those found in the Náhun sand, appearing like little boulders, or rounded masses of the mineral. In my cabinet the Brazilian alluvium is clay, or argillaceous matter, with rounded pebbles of white quartz. Mr. MAWE having provided the specimen.

original inhabitants\*. At the present time they form the great mass of the agricultural and artisan population, and the ruins of their well-built temples and towns painfully manifest the giving place of their civilization to the rude and barbarian horde of mountaineers who now consume in military idleness the fruits of their fertile fields. Like other tribes of the human race, the Newárs have lost their day of progress, and little remains to them now, save their eminently industrious habits, and a skill in agriculture far exceeding in efficiency that attained and practised in the neighbouring plains of Hindústán.

The fate of the Newárs, and the many good qualities by which they are distinguished, renders all connected with them of much interest. Their original country, previous to their advent in Nèpál, remains as yet undecided. The decidedly Tartarian cast of their physical form, and monosyllabic structure of their language, makes Thibet claim them as her's. The most popular fabulous traditions of the race point to India as the source of their existence, while the religious creed as a means of arriving at a correct knowledge of their origin has, as yet, I believe, proved defective†.

The manners and customs of a people, when known, go far to shew the intimacy of connexion with neighbouring countries; and, I believe, that were those of the Newárs (in such purity as they existed before the Gúrkhá conquest) taken as an index to their original country, few links of close connexion would remain to bind them to India, while many and strong ones would shew their Bhoteah origin.

The still, then, as an instrument of universal use, supposing it unknown in India, and to be the only one used in neighbouring Thibet, will go for something (trifling enough it is true) in the enumeration of domestic usages; and I now return to it.

The furnace on which the still is represented as resting, while at work, is commonly the clay *chula* of India, or made of unburned bricks. The body of the still (*phúsi*) is of copper, and is seldom made to contain more than 15 or 20 gallons, and costs from 30 to 40 mohurí rupees‡. Over the open mouth of the *phúsi* is placed the portion marked (3) named *putasi*; it is of burned clay, about the same size as the body of the still, and has a circle of round perforations, each the size of a crown-piece, flanking the large opening at its base, as represented in (7) of the sketch. The junction of the *phúsi* and *putasi* being secured by a luting of moist clay, the receiver nam-

\* See Mr. HODGSON'S paper on the Aborigines of Nèpál Proper, in the Journal of the Asiatic Society, for May, 1834.

† It is calculated that about two-thirds of the Newár population of Nèpál are Buddhists, the remainder Brahminical Hindus.

‡ One mohurí rupee is equal to 12½ annas sicca.

ed *dúbli*, and marked (6) is put into the *putasi*; its base, corresponding in circumference to the large opening in the latter, fills it up completely, and leaves the circle of smaller holes free, for the passage of the spirituous vapour, to ascend into the still head, or *putasi*.

The receiver being placed as above noted, within the portion marked (3), the vessel (5), named *batta*, or condenser of copper, is filled with cold water, and placed over, and into the mouth of the *putasi*, or still-head, fitting so close, as to prevent the escape of any portion of the spirituous vapour from the latter. Thus fitted, the distillation is accomplished, care being taken to remove the condenser so often as is necessary to replace the water become warm, by colder, fit for the condensation of the spirituous steam.

The shape of the condenser suits the performance of its office; the vapour rising through the smaller holes around the receiver comes in contact with its entire surface, and being there condensed, runs towards the apex of it, and thence falls into the sub-incumbent receiver.

The still is charged, of necessity, previous to the fixing of the receiver and condenser, and these portions are removed at each fresh charge; the receiver being either emptied of its contents and replaced, or a spare one introduced.

At each removal of the condenser there is of course some loss from the escape of vapour, but it is trifling, as there are usually two of these vessels attached to each still, and thus the time occupied in replacing a warm condenser, by a cold, is very inconsiderable.

It must be admitted, that this process is rather rude, and it will be seen, that the construction of the still has not reference to the most approved principles for economising fuel. It is deep and narrow, instead of broad and shallow, yet it is very efficient; and it must be remembered, that the shallow broad still even in Europe is of very modern date, and the result of the severe excise laws, existing in our own, and more civilized countries.

There is one peculiarity in the working of this still, worthy of remark, and the advantages of which in saving fuel compensate in some degree for its rudeness. So soon as the still is in full play, and a portion of vapour has been condensed, and reached the receiver, a fresh distillation commences.

The receiver heated from below causes the spirits to be converted into vapour, which is again condensed, and thus a constant round of distillation is carried on between the receiver and condenser, in addition to the proper distillation of the contents charging the body of the still. Alcohol, at the specific gravity of 863, can be produced from this still, and I have used it with complete success, in making the

Gold washers in the Beds of the Rivers under Nahun,  
with the apparatus used.

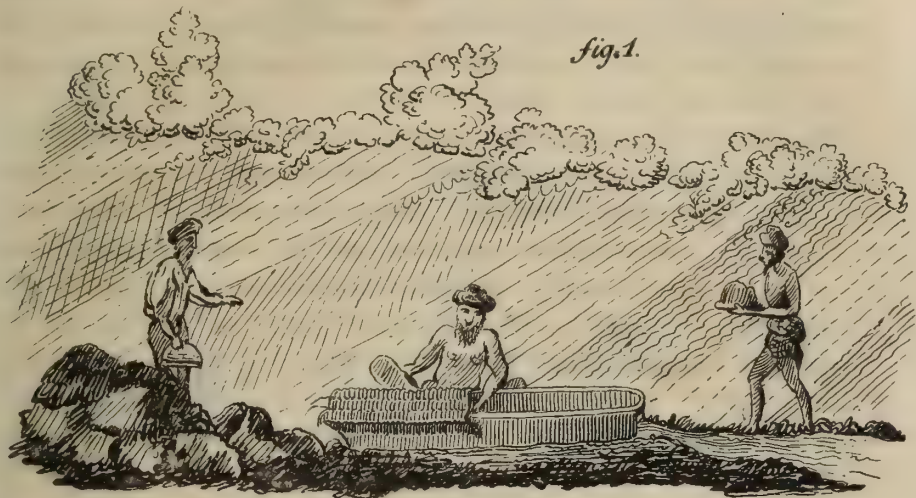


fig. 1.

fig. 2.

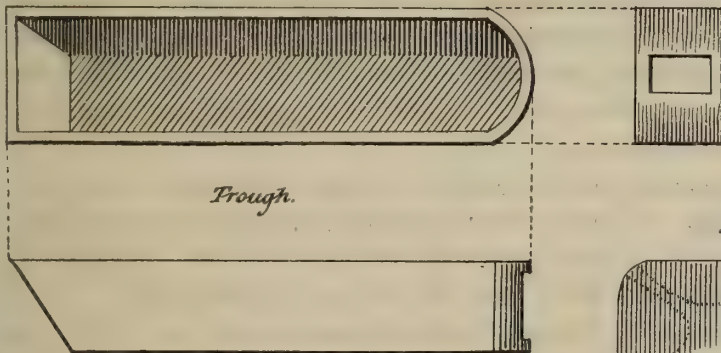


fig. 3.



fig. 4.

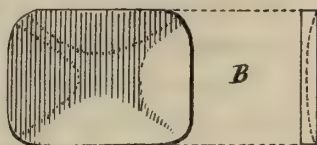


fig. 5.



Nipalese Still and component parts.

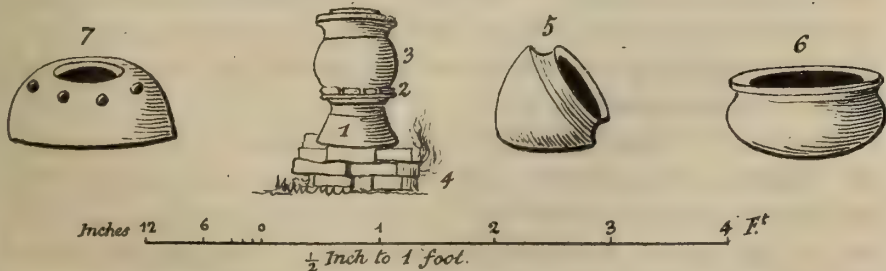


fig. 6.

Inscription on a piece of sculpture found near the Kesiah mound.

ॐ ॐः श्री यद्गुरुः प्रलयकृष्णभक्त्यादेवाय समुत्सृष्टः कीर्तयेत्

spirits of turpentine, and the residuum of yellow resin from the *Ganda Firoza* of Nèpál\*, both of these articles, being equally good for medicinal and other purposes, as that to be had in Calcutta, and, I believe, much cheaper.

The ubiquity of this still throughout the valley arises from the freedom of distillation sanctioned by the rulers. Excise laws for whiskey-making are as yet unknown here, and were their executives to appear among the peaceable Newárs, I fear the fate of some of them might resemble that of ROBERT BURN's man of this craft.

Every Newár, who can afford it, distils his own Rakshi (spirits from rice), and all the lower orders of this people, and many of the respectable ones, are greatly addicted to the use of spirits. They are not by any means given to habitual drunkenness, but they indulge for the good of their healths, regularly and moderately. In the rice-field, cold and wet as it is, the bottle is a great and ever present comfort; while at a religious meeting, or on the celebration of a birth or marriage, it goes merrily and rapidly round; males and females, young and old, alike partaking of it, to the increase of social happiness and joy in all.

Few sights in Nèpál are more grateful to the foreign visitor, than the feasts and merry-makings of the Newárs: on such occasions they congregate on some green and sunny spot, near a temple, or old image, with a running stream of limpid water passing through it, and there, for the live-long day, in the idle seasons of the year, do they sing, play on the musical instruments of their tribe, often dance and ever laugh, enlivened by the *rakshi* stoup it's true; but the main-spring of their joy is the cheerful and happy temperament they possess, to an eminent degree, in strong and pleasing contrast with the sour looks and arrogant demeanour of the Gúrkhás, or the melancholy and apathetic countenances of the inhabitants of Hindústán, who sojourn for a time among them.

*Reference to Plate of Still, and its component portions.*

Names in Newári language.	English synonymes.
1 Phúsi, .....	1 Body of still.
2 Sachi, .....	2 Luting (of clay).
3 Putási, .....	3 Still-head.
4 Bhúta, .....	4 Furnace.
5 Batta, .....	5 Condenser, (copper.)
6 Dubli, .....	6 Receiver, (earthen.)
7 Putasi, (section of), .....	7 Section of Still-head.)

\* Commonly called Ganda Biroza; it is well known to be the exudation from the denuded trunk of the different species of the pine throughout these mountains.

VII.—*Note on an Inscription found near the Kesariah Mound, in Tirhút.*  
By J. B. ELLIOTT, Esq. (Pl. XVII. fig. 6.)

[In a note to the Editor.]

Having seen mention of the Kesariah Mound made in the last No. of your Journal, I beg to enclose the impression of an inscription cut below the figures of the *Avatárs*, sculptured on a black stone, which I obtained at Kesariah several years ago from a fakír. The figures being small and rudely sculptured, it is not worth while making a copy of them; but as the inscription could not be made out by the Pandit of the Chapráh Committee, it may be worth deciphering. I visited and made some notes on the subject of the pillars, and other antiquities in Champáran, which I may, perhaps, hereafter communicate.

*Note.*—This fragment, which is Brahmanical, not Buddhist, is in an ancient form of Dévanagarí, differing little from that noticed on the Bakra image of Mr. STEPHENSON. It breaks off abruptly with an initial *i*:—for it is only to *kírttir iha* that any meaning can be traced: while the diphthong *ai* or *é* is plain over the last letter, which I conclude to be an *h*. The reading in modern Dévanagarí will be as follows: I have added a literal Latin version.

नित्यः श्री चन्द्रदत्तः सूर्यादत्तस्य सूक्ताशयादित्याहसमुत्पन्नः कीर्त्तिरिच्छे  
Perpetuus B. ÇANDRADATTUS SU'RYADATTI "Súkta"-(recitandi)-proprio-tem-  
pore-(sc.)-Solis-die-natus. Gloria hic. . . . .

The interpretation of which in English will be:—

“The ever-living CHANDRADATTA was born on the Sunday appropriated to the reading of the Súkta by his father SU'RYADATTA. Glory here. . . . .” (The Súkta is the most sacred hymn of the Rig Veda, closing its 3rd Ashtaka or Ogdoad—and has for one of its verses the celebrated Gáyatri.)

W. H. M.

[NOTE.—I take this opportunity of pointing out, in reference to my observation on the Bakrá image inscription, (page 131,) that I had overlooked a plate in FRANKLIN'S Palibothra, of a Buddhist image, with an inscription, to which Lieut. CUNNINGHAM has since drawn my attention. On turning to it, I perceive, that the two lines separately given are, though miserably perverted by the copyist, precisely the same as the *ye dharmmá hétun*, &c. of Sárnáth. The three lines on the pedestal, though stated in the text to be different, would appear to be the same also; at least the two first words, *ye dharmimá*, are distinct.—J. P.]

VIII.—*Proceedings of the Asiatic Society.*

*Wednesday Evening, the 3rd June, 1835.*

The Honorable Sir EDWARD RYAN, President, in the chair.

Read the proceedings of the last meeting.

Mr. JOHN RICHARDS, proposed by Mr. BAGSHAW, seconded by Mr. TREVELYAN, was duly elected a member.

Mr. J. P. GRANT was proposed by Mr. TREVELYAN, seconded by Mr. J. COLVIN. Mr. WM. ADAM, proposed by Capt. FORBES, seconded by Mr. HARE. Mr. WM. HY. BENSON, proposed by Dr. MILL, seconded by Mr. PRINSEP.

Captain TAYLOR, Madras Cav. proposed by Mr. MACNAGHTEN, seconded by Sir E. RYAN.

Dr. EVANS, Mr. PHAYRE, 7th Regt. Bengal N. I., Mr. STOCQUELER, and Lieut. MONTRIOU, Ind. N. were proposed by Dr. PEARSON, and seconded by Mr. J. PRINSEP.

The Secretary brought up the following :

*Report of the Committee of Papers on Mr. J. T. PEARSON'S proposition for creating a new order of Members, to be denominated "Associate Members of the Asiatic Society."*

1. "We consider Dr. PEARSON'S proposition for creating *Associate Members* to be worthy of adoption by the Society, and we would propose that they should enjoy all the privileges of ordinary members; but we would suggest, that by way of maintaining more than the mere distinction of name between the *Associate* and the *Honorary* Members, some contribution, however trifling, should be required from the former class. The *Associates*, it may be presumed, would be composed of men, whose reputation would not be sufficiently brilliant to admit of their being classed among our Honorary Members. They would, in all probability, did their circumstances admit, become ordinary paying members, and the principle upon which the present proposition rests, is, that the Society desirous of removing this obstruction, and encouraging their labours, is willing to admit them on a less expensive footing: at the same time, requiring a moderate contribution to distinguish them from those eminent men, whom it considers an honor to itself, to enrol in its list of members.

2. "Under the above considerations, we concur in recommending that the annual payment of Associate Members be fixed at four rupees. Their election to proceed in the mode prescribed for honorary members, that is, to be previously submitted to the Committee of Papers for report.

"For the Committee of Papers,

"20th May, 1835.

"J. PRINSEP, Secy."

The President, followed by Mr. J. R. COLVIN, proposed that "the first part of the Report be adopted, "That there should be Associate Members, having all the privileges of ordinary members."

Mr. D. ROSS, seconded by Mr. MCFARLAN, moved as an amendment, that the words "with the exception of any power of voting on money questions" be added. This amendment was lost, as was another proposed by Mr. N. B. E. BAILLIE, seconded by Capt. FORBES, "that they should have all the privileges of ordinary members, except the right of voting."

The motion was then put and carried; the second proposal was also made into a resolution, viz. "That Associate Members shall pay an annual contribution of four rupees."

The Secretary submitted also the—

*Report of the Committee of Papers, on Mr. GARDNER'S application and estimate for Repairing the Monument of Sir WILLIAM JONES.*

"The Committee find on inquiry that the repairs may be executed at an expence of about 150 rupees.

"They trust the members will be unanimous in thinking it desirable, to evince the respect of the Society for the memory of its illustrious founder, by authoriz-

ing the trifling expence which will be required to repair his monument, and to preserve from obliteration that beautiful epitaph which he wrote for himself, and which is so characteristic of the independent uprightness and the unaffected piety of its author.

“ 20th May, 1835.

“ For the Committee of Papers,  
“ J. PRINSEP, Secy.”

Proposed by the Rev. Dr. MILL, Vice-President, seconded by Mr. COLVIN, and resolved, that the Report of the Committee be adopted and acted upon.

The draft of a Memorial to Government, regarding Oriental Publications, prepared by a Special Committee, appointed at the last meeting, was then read by the President, taking the sense of the meeting on each paragraph. The following is the Memorial, as finally adopted :

*To the Hon'ble Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart. Gov. General of India in Council,  
&c. &c. &c.*

Honorable Sir and Sirs,

The Members of the Asiatic Society, now resident in Calcutta, have requested me, as President of their body, to address the Honorable the Governor General in Council, on a subject which engages their deepest interest.

2.—It has come to the knowledge of the Society that the funds which have been hitherto in part applied to the revival and improvement of the literature and the encouragement of the learned natives of India, are henceforth to be exclusively appropriated to purposes of English education.

3.—The Asiatic Society does not presume for a moment to doubt the power of the Government to apply its funds in such manner as it may deem to be most consistent with the intentions of the legislature, and most advantageous for the great object of educating its Indian subjects ; but they contemplate with the most sincere alarm the effect that such a measure might produce on the literature and languages of the country, which it had been hitherto an object both with the Government and with the Education Committee, under its orders, to encourage and patronize, unless the proposition which they have the honor to submit, meet with the favorable attention of Government.

4.—The Society has been informed, that this departure from the course hitherto pursued has been ordered to take such immediate effect, that the printing of several valuable oriental works has been suddenly suspended, while they were in different stages of progress through the press ; and that the suspension has been alike extended to the legendary lore of the East, and to the enlightened science of the West, if clothed in an Asiatic language.

5.—The cause of this entire change of system has been, the Society understand, a desire to extend the benefits of English instruction more widely among the natives of India ; the fund hitherto appropriated to that purpose not being deemed sufficient.

6.—The Members of the Society are individually and collectively warm advocates for the diffusion, as far as possible, of English arts, sciences, and literature ; but they cannot see the necessity, in the pursuit of this favorite object, of abandoning the cultivation of the ancient and beautiful languages of the East.

7.—The peculiar objects of the Asiatic Society, and the success with which its members have, under the auspices of their illustrious founder, prosecuted their researches into the hidden stores of oriental knowledge, entitle them to form an opinion of the value of these ancient tongues, intimately connected as they are with the history, the habits, the languages, and the institutions of the people ; and it is this which emboldens them



to step forward on such an occasion as the present to offer an humble but earnest prayer, that the encouragement and support of the British Government may not be withdrawn from the languages and literature of the vast and varied population, whom Providence has committed to its protection.

8.—Many arguments of policy and humanity might be advanced in support of their present solicitation, upon which the Society do not deem it within their province to expatiate. There is one argument, however, which appears to be of so conclusive a character as to require distinct notice in this Appeal.

9.—It is admitted by all, even the most enthusiastic advocates of the English system of tuition, that this language never can become the language of the great body of the people whose moral and intellectual improvement is the benevolent object of the British Government. It is moreover admitted, that the Sanscrit language, while it is directly the parent of the dialects spoken from Cashmere to the Kistna, and from the Indus to the Brahmaputra, is also the source from which every other dialect of the Peninsula, and even many languages of the neighbouring countries, have been for ages dependent for every term extending beyond the merest purposes of animal or savage life. If it were possible to dry up this source of literary vegetation, which gives beauty and fertility to the dialects of India in proportion to the copiousness of its admixture; the vernacular languages would become so barren and impoverished, as to be wholly unfit to be the channels of elegant literature or useful knowledge. The same may be said of Arabic and Persian as regards the Hindustani language.

10.—The Society are far from meaning to assert that the withdrawal of the support of Government, from the cherished languages of the natives of India, would put an end to the cultivation of them. On the contrary, they think that the natural and necessary effect would be that both the Hindus and Muhammedans would, in that event, adhere with tenfold tenacity to those depositaries of all they hold sacred and valuable. But, incalculable mischief, in a variety of shapes, would nevertheless be effected. If the British Government set the example of neglecting oriental studies, it can hardly be expected that many of their European subjects will cultivate them. The field will then be left in the undisturbed possession of those whose unprofitable husbandry is already but too visible, and who will pursue it with a view to the perpetuation of superstition and defective morality among the people. An influence will thus be lost, the benefit of which to the more intellectual classes of natives can scarcely be estimated too highly, arising from the direction given to their studies and pursuits by those who can freely acknowledge what is intellectually and morally valuable in their previous systems, and distinguish it from what is of an opposite character: and who take the first and most necessary step for removing the wrong prejudices of others, by proving that they are without unjust prejudice themselves. It needs no laboured proof to shew how infinitely more powerful must be our protest against what is demoralizing or debasing in the native institutions, when we act with this knowledge and this spirit, than if we commenced by repudiating every thing Asiatic, as contemptible, and acknowledged no basis of intellectual communication with them, but what was formed in the peculiar fashions of modern Europe.

11.—If the Sanscrit and Arabic languages, consecrated as they are by ages of the remotest antiquity—enshrined, as they are, in the affections of venerating millions—the theme, as they are, of the wonder and of the admiration of all the learned nations of Europe;—if these languages are to receive no support from a Government which has been ever famed for its liberality and its justice,—from a Government which draws an annual revenue of twenty millions from the people by whom these languages are held sacred, it is the decided opinion of the Asiatic Society—an opinion which they want words

to express with adequate force, that the cause of civilization and the character of the British nation will alike sustain irreparable injury.

12.—The Society, therefore, earnestly beseech the Honorable the Governor General in Council, that if, on full consideration, any reasonable doubt shall be entertained by the Supreme Government of the right of the native literature to a fair proportion of the sum appropriated by Parliament, “for the revival and improvement of literature, and for the encouragement of learned natives of India,” he will then be pleased either himself to grant, or if necessary, to solicit from the Court of Directors, some specific pecuniary aid to be annually expended on these objects. And the Society will be happy to undertake the duty of superintending the expenditure of this sum, under such checks as it may please the Government to impose.

13.—But whatever may be the determination of the Government on this point, the Society respectfully intreat the Governor General in Council, that he will be pleased to afford to them the assistance of the learned natives hitherto employed in these literary undertakings, together with such pecuniary aid as may be necessary, to complete the printing of the oriental works, which has been interrupted by the resolution of Government to direct the funds hitherto expended upon them to purposes of English education.

14.—Should Government be pleased to accede to this request, the Society will furnish with as little delay as possible an estimate of the amount which will be required for the attainment of this object.

15.—The Society cannot doubt that the Governor General in Council will support their appeal to the home authorities with his powerful advocacy, nor that the earliest opportunity will be taken of bringing the merits of the important and entirely national question it embraces, before the Honorable the Court of Directors, in all its bearings. This address has been dictated solely by the desire of proffering to Government the services of an appropriate organ, through which the publication of the oriental classics may be continued, and that further patronage extended to oriental studies, which it cannot believe the Government to have any intention of altogether abandoning.

EDWARD RYAN, *President.*

*Asiatic Society's Apartments, }  
June 3rd, 1835. }*

Upon the first five paragraphs one or two verbal alterations only were suggested. On the 6th, which originally ended, “but they would deeply regret if, in the pursuit of this favorite object, it were thought necessary or advisable to abandon, &c.”

Mr. COLVIN begged to propose the omission of the word “favorite,” as applied in the above paragraph of the Address to the object of extending the means of English education. It appeared to him to convey an unnecessary imputation, as if of prejudiced favoritism or partiality. He would here say (alluding to some remarks which had passed in conversation), that he entertained as cordial a desire, as any one could do, to promote the literary purposes, with a view to which the Society was formed. He, as a member of the Society, fully sympathized in the feeling which would seek to maintain the knowledge and cultivation of the oriental languages and literature, and he would readily join in an address to Government to obtain its patronage and pecuniary support for those studies; but he had hoped that the proceedings of the evening were to be free from controversy. He had not been present at the meeting of the previous month, but he had seen with great gratification, that the proposition then adopted was for the preparation of a memorial, “which should avoid to the utmost all controversial points.” He feared from the observations which had been made that he should be disappointed in this respect. He had, however, been unintentionally led, by what had passed, into a digression; returning to the object for which he had risen to speak, he proposed the omission of the word “favorite” in the passage which had just been read.

Mr. W. H. MACNAGHTEN could not help expressing his astonishment, at the observations which had been made by the gentleman who had just sat down. He had hoped that in this place at least, oriental literature would have found protection and favor: that, however ruthlessly and successfully the opposition to this cause might have manifested itself in other quarters; here, at least, no enemy would be permitted to enter under the garb of a votary, and that this sanctuary of science might not be polluted by any unhallowed voice. Now he was tempted to exclaim, *Procul, O procul este profani!* When he heard a gentleman coming forward with such an objection as has been made, he could not help ascribing it to something more than a dislike to the epithet. What expression could possibly have been used more innocent or more appropriate? Here was the fact before them, that the funds dedicated to oriental literature had been entirely carried off; that works of all descriptions, scientific as well as others, had been strangled in the very act of coming into the world, and thrown aside as useless and pernicious; and after all this, when they said that the authors of this to them grievous calamity were actuated by another *favorite* object, they were taken to task for the expression. He really wanted words to express his surprise at such a frivolous objection being urged, and he trusted the Society would evince the same sense of it as he entertained, that it was wholly unworthy of being attended to.

Mr. COLVIN'S proposition was not seconded.

Mr. PRINSEP, thought that the terms 'deeply regret' were not nearly strong enough to show the sentiments of the Society—he would suggest '*cannot see the necessity*' as more appropriate.

This expression after some discussion was substituted.

On the perusal of the 12th paragraph, which stood originally as follows:

"The Society therefore earnestly beseech the Honorable the Governor General in Council, that *he will be pleased to solicit pecuniary aid from the Court of Directors, to be annually appropriated to the revival of the oriental literature, and the encouragement of learned natives, and the Society will be happy to undertake the superintendence, &c.*"

Mr. H. T. PRINSEP moved as an amendment, that the sentence be altered, (as it now stands in the memorial,) to convey a stronger expression of the Society's feeling on the recent measure.

Mr. COLVIN said, that he must oppose the amendment. He took the liberty of again addressing the meeting, as he was desirous to record his opinion on the question which had now been brought under discussion. He would not enter into an argument on the point of law which had been mooted. He had himself always considered, and still considered, the orders of the Government to be fully consistent both with the terms and the spirit of the act of Parliament. He must think it difficult to believe, that the legislature, in the first, and only specific appropriation which it had made with a view to the mental advancement of the Indian people, had intended not to entrust to the Government, to which it has committed the immediate control of these territories, the discretion of applying the fund as it might judge most expedient and practicable, in order to the cultivation of the most improved literature, and the communication of the most enlightened systems of knowledge, which its subjects might be found willing to receive at its hands. It appeared to him a strange conclusion, that it had been meant by the British Parliament to render compulsory the maintenance of a system calculated to perpetuate the ignorance and prejudices of the people—that it had been designed to fetter this Government and to restrain it from measures of improvement. But he had said, that he would not go into a discussion of the point of law. He would rather state what he considered to be the duty of the Society in regard to the address which was now to be presented. Was it proper, he would ask,—was it respectful, in going up to Government as applicants for its assistance, that they should assert, by implication, that it had, in its late measure, deviated from its proper course? Was that a subject which the Society ought to entertain at all? Further, he would urge that it would certainly be most disadvantageous for their own purpose, were they, in appealing to the liberality of

Government, to express in any manner disapprobation of its proceedings. Looking only to the motive of securing the success of the application which they were about to make, he would say, omit in the address all and every topic of controversy. The Government, in receiving an address such as was now proposed, would appear called upon to vote its own condemnation. He would, on these grounds, give his voice against the amendment.

Mr. MACNAGHTEN again rose, and spoke to the following effect :

Mr. PRESIDENT, we have been assured by Mr. COLVIN more than once, that he is no lawyer. He could not have asserted with equal truth, that he is no preacher, for he has favoured us with a very lengthy discourse on our duties, both to the Government and the people. But I must take the liberty of differing with him altogether, as to the doctrines he has propounded. We are an independent, and I trust, a respectable body, congregated for the purpose of promoting by every means in our power the cause of literature and science. As the guardians of that sacred cause, it is not only our privilege, but our duty to appeal, respectfully it is true, but earnestly, to that power which is competent to rescue it from impending danger. I would go further and say, that if the Government could be so infatuated as to declare open hostility against the languages and literature of the people of India, it would be an obligation, of which we could not divest ourselves without disgrace, to remonstrate against such a proceeding with all our energies. If we think we have the law as well as the justice of the case on our side, no liberal, no equitable Government would be offended by our pointing it out.—Mr. COLVIN has again returned to the ground which he first took up, and has indulged in the use of slighting and contemptuous language as applied to oriental studies. He has moreover asserted, that such sentiments are entertained by the natives themselves. Gentlemen, I have now been resident in this country upwards of twenty-six years, and, I believe, I may say, that I have not been deficient in my attention to the genius of the people, their languages, their literature, their habits, or their prejudices, and I will venture to affirm, that nothing can be more without foundation than the supposition which Mr. COLVIN appears to entertain. Oriental literature has much to recommend it, and the natives of the country are passionately devoted to that literature. It cannot be otherwise. I cannot sit down without again expressing my astonishment, that this place should have been selected for such an attack. If havoc and desolation rage around us, we may not be able to prevent it; but here in the citadel of our strength, that an effort at our overthrow should be made, is to me astonishing. I have no fear, however, that it will be successful, or that there will be difference of opinion as to the character of the proceeding.

The PRESIDENT, however unwilling to offer an opinion from the chair, must object to the amendment, because it appeared to entertain a doubt of the legality of the course pursued. Government acted by advice, and there remained an appeal to the proper tribunals if any interest were aggrieved. He was anxious to impress on the Society the necessity of abstaining from legal and political discussions, as quite out of character in a literary and scientific institution. Otherwise they must lose many members who could not vote, nay, could not sit, where such topics were to be canvassed. The case was strong enough of itself; the application for continuing the suspended oriental publications was a most proper object for the Society to urge; it should have his warmest support, provided it were unmixed with other matters which had been the subject of discussion elsewhere, and upon which the Government had expressed their opinion. He had a very strong opinion on the necessity of excluding debatable topics of this nature from the Society, and if they were to continue such discussions he for one should be compelled to retire. Literary and Scientific subjects seemed to him the only matters proper for discussion with them, except the little usual business which must of course be disposed of.

Mr. MACNAGHTEN, with the most unfeigned deference and respect to the learned President, must take leave to express his doubts, as to the doctrine which he had delivered, or at all events to seek for some explanation which might solve his difficulties. He understood from him, that in this place, they were never competent to touch upon a question of law, and that if they did, those who are connected with

the legal profession must cease to be members of the Society. This doctrine seemed to him to involve the necessity of submitting to every species of spoliation. Moreover that they were not competent to advert in any way to the measures of Government. Now it appeared to him, that they were not here as lawyers or as civil or military servants of the Company; and that when they met in this hall, they divested themselves of those characters, and appeared only in the character of the servants of science and of literature, the guardians of oriental learning, and the representatives of its interests both in Asia and in Europe. In that sacred character they were bound to be vigilant and active. Indeed, he could conceive cases involving questions of law, in which they should feel themselves compelled to act. Supposing the Government were to be advised that they held a mortgage in the Society's premises, and that upon this hint, they were to proceed *instantly* to an ejection. Ought they in such a case tamely to resign their right, because there happened to be lawyers among them? He could understand the motive which should restrain particular gentlemen from expressing an opinion, but he could not conceive any circumstance which would justify their surrendering without a struggle the rights of their constituents. Those constituents are, he said, the literary men of all nations. They had an awful trust imposed upon them, and they must execute it faithfully and conscientiously as a great public body, without any personal motives, or any personal scruples.

Mr. PRINSEP felt great diffidence in expressing his dissent from what had fallen from the President, the more so, as he was himself a most unworthy member, whereas the President's merits towards the Society were of the highest character. But he could not think, under British Government, any society, or even any individual could have the least hesitation in expressing respectfully an opinion, that the Government had misconstrued a law, when that misconstruction was likely to do injury to the rights or the feelings of so large a portion of its subjects as the native community formed in this country. No wilful error or wrong was imputed to the Government: but surely it was not too much to say, as he was confident was the case, that Government had in this instance been ill-advised and misled. He did not speak as a lawyer, but as a member of this Society, whose position in respect to the literature of India had been well described by Mr. MACNAGHTEN. That there could be no possible offence to Government in so expressing themselves he felt assured, by seeing members and high officers of the Government ready to join in so doing. He was somewhat surprised at what had fallen from Mr. COLVIN, as to the ancient literature of India, being calculated only to perpetuate idolatry and superstition. What would be thought, if England had possessed herself of Greece, a part of which was under her dominion, and had bestowed funds for reviving its language and literature,—would any one be listened to who should urge, that with the language of Greece one would be reviving her mythology? The most advantageous thing for the advancement of European literature in India was to revive that of the country, and place them in contrast side by side: it was easy to see which must then prevail. He did not think the Society should take so humble a tone as to ask, as a charity, that which Parliament had given as a right, and would rather not succeed in the object that all had equally at heart, than take it in the shape of an eleemosynary donation.

Mr. H. T. PRINSEP quoted the words of the act, which he believed had been grounded on a minute of Mr. H. COLEROOKE'S, specially pointed to the literature and learned natives of the country. He thought there could be no doubt as to the meaning of the clause, and if such were entertained by any present, he should not hesitate to take the votes of members as to the construction to be put upon the words. Entertaining this opinion, he thought the Society ought to have no hesitation about expressing it; and as for the fact stated, that the Government had put a different interpretation upon the law, he knew not how the Society could know that these questions had ever been determined by the Government. But even if this point had been so ruled, that was no reason why the members of this Society, if their opinion was clear as to the legal rights of this literature, of which they were the patrons and protectors, should not express that opinion even to the Government. He was quite sure it was the general feeling, that the grant was made by Parliament to the literature of India, which ought not to be robbed of

the provision so made to it. By the amendment, it was intended to express this as delicately and respectfully as possible.

Sir J. P. GRANT thought it right to state, that in voting for the amendment, he did not mean to give an opinion upon the question of law. He did not think that the amendment went to express any opinion upon the question of law, and if it did, most certainly he neither would nor ought to vote upon it. It merely, in his opinion, asked of the Government to give its consideration to the question, and in case they should be of opinion that oriental literature had not a legal and parliamentary claim under the words of the act, then to make a new and specific grant of funds for this important purpose.

Mr. W. GRANT was not disposed to blink the question which the Society wished to bring under the reconsideration of Government, and did not see that any disrespect was implied in urging, however strongly, such reconsideration. The Society had for a long time believed, that a particular fund was appropriated by Parliament to objects in a manner confided by the public to the Society's peculiar care, and they now learned that this fund was no longer to be so applied. The Society was bound to undertake the cause of oriental literature, and to urge Government to reconsider a resolution so inimical to it. And if upon serious reconsideration, Government should continue to be of opinion, that no fund was by law appropriated at present to its conservation, then to urge an application to the proper quarters for a fund which should be so appropriated.

Mr. COLVIN asked Sir J. P. GRANT, whether the words of the amendment which he read did not at least by implication convey an opinion upon the question of law.

Sir J. P. GRANT said, that in his opinion they did not, but that the words in the Act of Parliament being such as they had that night been stated to be, the amendment suggested to the Government, that it was a grave question, of which it desired their reconsideration, and upon this view he was prepared to vote for the amendment; but the suggestion being made that it might be otherwise interpreted, he should not vote.

The amendment was then put and carried. The revised memorial was once more read through, and, on the motion of Mr. H. T. PRINSEF, seconded by Bábú RASUMAY DUTT, it was adopted *nem. con.*

Read a letter from Captain WADE, enclosing one from the Chevalier VENTURA, acknowledging his election as an honorary member.

Read extract of a letter from Lieut. A. BURNES, enclosing copies of desiderata in Botany from Professor GRAHAM, and in Geology from the London Society.

Read a letter from THOMAS DICKENSON, Esq. Secretary to the Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, acknowledging the receipt of M. CSOMA'S Tibetan Dictionary and Grammar, and expressing the best thanks of that Society for the same.

#### *Library.*

Read a letter from EDWARD T. BENNETT, Esq. Secretary to the Zoological Society of London, forwarding its proceedings for the years 1830, 31, 32, and 33, with the 2nd part of the 1st volume of their Transactions, for presentation to the Society.

Read a letter received through M. L. A. RICHY, from Monsieur GARCIN DE TASSY, forwarding for presentation copy of a work entitled "Les Œuvres De Walí, (*Dewán-Walí*,) recently published by himself in Hindustani at the royal press of Paris.

The Indian Journal of Medical Science, No. 18, was presented by the Editors.

Meteorological Register for April, 1835, by the Surveyor General.

The following books were received from the book-sellers.

Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopaedia—Simson's Roman Empire, vol. 2nd.

\_\_\_\_\_, Germanic Empire, vol. 1st.

Library of Useful Knowledge—Natural Philosophy, vol. 3rd.

A List of the Pali, Burmese, and Singalese works, in the Burmese character, (some with Burmese interpretations) in the Asiatic Society's library, was submitted, and ordered to be printed in the out-coming catalogue.

*Museum and Antiquities.*

A model of the Táj Mahal at Agra, in ivory, was presented on the part of MESSRS. W. CARR and J. PRINSEP.

A note from the Baron Von HUGEL, on the variance of the Tope at Sár-náth, from the Dehgopas of Ceylon, was read.

[This will find a place in a future number.]

A letter from Col. S. P. STACY announced, that he had despatched for the inspection of the Society, to the charge of their Secretary, his very extensive collection of Bactrian, Indo-Scythic, ancient Hindu, and Muhammedan coins, of which he also forwarded a detailed catalogue.

This collection is more than usually valuable from its having been made principally in central India, and it is mainly rich in Hindu coins, of which it will serve to devolope many series with names hitherto unknown.

*Physical.*

Specimens of Copper Ore from the Ajmír mines, with a descriptive account by Captain DIXON, addressed to the Governor General, were presented through Captain SMYTH, Mil. Sec. G. G.

An account of the bearded vulture of Nipal, *Gypaëtos barbatus*, by Mr. B. H. HODGSON, was submitted, with an accurate painting by his native artist.

Mr. HODGSON is in possession of upwards of 2000 illustrations of the Fauna, and the Ornithology of the valley, which he is now seeking to publish in a worthy manner, in conjunction with eminent naturalists at home. The plates and descriptions of the Mammalia are already gone to England, and the others will soon follow. The whole will form a memorable monument of his zeal and indefatigable industry.

Extracts of a letter from Professor WILSON were read.

The Ashmolean Society, is anxious to obtain through the Asiatic Society, an entire skeleton of an alligator, for the purpose of perpetual comparison with the fossils of the Saurian tribe at home. An inquiry has arisen which can be solved only in this country, Do Elephants shed their tusks? The immense supply of them brought from Africa to England, if derived from the death or destruction of the animal, must it is thought soon lead to its extermination.

[Mr. WILSON, has, we are happy to remark, prepared the *Vishnu Parána*, the *Sankhya Chandrika*, for the press, and only waits the casting of a new fount of type. The Hindu theatre has passed through a new edition. MOORCROFT'S Journals are still in MURRAY'S hands, and the bust not commenced upon, by CHANTREY.]

Notice on the fœtus of the basking shark (*squalus maximus*), and a preserved specimen, were submitted by Dr. J. T. PEARSON

A paper was submitted by Mr. F. G. TAYLOR, H. C. Astronomer at Madras, on a new method of ascertaining the error of collimation in astronomical instruments by reflection from a surface of the mercury.

[This very valuable and simple method is described in the present number.]

A note on the mummy brought by Captain ARCHBOLD from Egypt was submitted by Dr. EVANS.

From the lateness of the hour the reading of the papers presented was postponed to the next meeting.